



# SALISBURY

## Essex County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

On September 6, 1638, Secretary of the Massachusetts Bay Colony Simon Bradstreet received an agreement from Governor Winthrop and the General Court giving him and eleven other men the right to begin a plantation north of the Merrimack River. This land grant included the towns of Amesbury and Merrimack, Massachusetts as well as the New Hampshire towns of Seabrook, South Hampton, Newton, Hampstead, Plaistow and Kingston.

This town, bordered by the Merrimack River and the Atlantic Ocean, originally named Colchester, was incorporated as Salisbury in 1640.

The modern Salisbury encompasses sixteen miles of farms, beach, marshlands and both residential and commercial space. The newly-formed Economic Development Commission is working on expanding the town's commercial and industrial base. Attractive features for businesses include Salisbury's proximity to Boston as well as its access to Interstates 95, 495 and Route 1. One of the lowest tax rates in the Merrimack Valley is another plus for both businesses and residents.

Salisbury Beach State Reservation is the Commonwealth's busiest, with over two hundred thousand visitors annually to the four-mile beach and campground.

Points of interest include the beach amusement area, the reservation for seal and bird-watching, and the historical fishing village of Rings Island, childhood of Edna St. Vincent Millay. Marinas line the river and provide a great spot for bass and bluefishing.

Active community groups and cooperation between town officials and townspeople make Salisbury a fine place to live, locate a business or spend a vacation.

(Narrative supplied by community)



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# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Northeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Amesbury on the west; Seabrook, New Hampshire, on the north; the Atlantic Ocean on the east; and separated by the Merrimack River from Newburyport and Newbury on the south. Salisbury is 42 miles north of Boston; 20 miles south of Portsmouth, New Hampshire; 70 miles south of Portland, Maine; and 260 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 17.84 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 15.43 sq. miles

**Population:** 6,882

**Density:** 446 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Haverhill Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.7°F

Normal temperature in July.....72.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.4"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Newburyport East, Newburyport West

## Regional Planning Agency

Merrimack Valley Region

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 462-8232

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Manager

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1638

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

|                   | Number | %    |   |
|-------------------|--------|------|---|
| Total Registered  | 4,195  |      |   |
| Democrats         | 1,297  | 30.9 | % |
| Republicans       | 544    | 13.0 | % |
| Other parties     | 0      | 0.0  | % |
| Unenrolled Voters | 2,354  | 56.1 | % |

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Salisbury town, Essex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

| Subject   | Number | Percent | Subject  | Number | Percent |
|---|--------|---------|--|--------|---------|
| Total population.....                           | 7,827  | 100.0   | HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE                          |        |         |
| SEX AND AGE                                     |        |         | Total population.....                                | 7,827  | 100.0   |
| Male.....                                       | 3,863  | 49.4    | Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....                | 92     | 1.2     |
| Female.....                                     | 3,964  | 50.6    | Mexican.....   | 10     | 0.1     |
| Under 5 years.....                              | 483    | 6.2     | Puerto Rican.....                                    | 37     | 0.5     |
| 5 to 9 years.....                               | 508    | 6.5     | Cuban.....   | 6      | 0.1     |
| 10 to 14 years.....                             | 550    | 7.0     | Other Hispanic or Latino.....                        | 39     | 0.5     |
| 15 to 19 years.....                             | 465    | 5.8     | Not Hispanic or Latino.....                          | 7,735  | 98.8    |
| 20 to 24 years.....                             | 352    | 4.5     | White alone.....                                     | 7,576  | 96.8    |
| 25 to 34 years.....                             | 1,017  | 13.0    | RELATIONSHIP   |        |         |
| 35 to 44 years.....                             | 1,492  | 19.1    | Total population.....                                | 7,827  | 100.0   |
| 45 to 54 years.....                             | 1,182  | 15.1    | In households.....                                   | 7,787  | 99.5    |
| 55 to 59 years.....                             | 498    | 6.4     | Householder.....                                     | 3,082  | 39.4    |
| 60 to 64 years.....                             | 359    | 4.6     | Spouse.....  | 1,515  | 19.4    |
| 65 to 74 years.....                             | 541    | 6.9     | Child.....   | 2,261  | 28.9    |
| 75 to 84 years.....                             | 306    | 3.9     | Own child under 18 years.....                        | 1,636  | 20.9    |
| 85 years and over.....                          | 84     | 1.1     | Other relatives.....                                 | 403    | 5.1     |
| Median age (years).....                         | 38.8   | (X)     | Under 18 years.....                                  | 142    | 1.8     |
| 18 years and over.....                          | 5,980  | 76.4    | Nonrelatives.....                                    | 526    | 6.7     |
| Male.....                                       | 2,921  | 37.3    | Unmarried partner.....                               | 259    | 3.3     |
| Female.....                                     | 3,059  | 39.1    | In group quarters.....                               | 40     | 0.5     |
| 21 years and over.....                          | 5,761  | 73.6    | Institutionalized population.....                    | 36     | 0.5     |
| 62 years and over.....                          | 1,137  | 14.5    | Noninstitutionalized population.....                 | 4      | 0.1     |
| 65 years and over.....                          | 931    | 11.9    | HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE                                    |        |         |
| Male.....                                       | 403    | 5.1     | Total households.....                                | 3,082  | 100.0   |
| Female.....                                     | 528    | 6.7     | Family households (families).....                    | 1,991  | 64.6    |
| RACE  |        |         | With own children under 18 years.....                | 910    | 29.5    |
| One race.....                                   | 7,745  | 99.0    | Married-couple family.....                           | 1,515  | 49.2    |
| White.....                                      | 7,635  | 97.5    | With own children under 18 years.....                | 679    | 22.0    |
| Black or African American.....                  | 32     | 0.4     | Female householder, no husband present.....          | 335    | 10.9    |
| American Indian and Alaska Native.....          | 24     | 0.3     | With own children under 18 years.....                | 164    | 5.3     |
| Asian.....                                      | 27     | 0.3     | Nonfamily households.....                            | 1,091  | 35.4    |
| Asian Indian.....                               | 7      | 0.1     | Householder living alone.....                        | 819    | 26.6    |
| Chinese.....                                    | 1      | -       | Householder 65 years and over.....                   | 287    | 9.3     |
| Filipino.....                                   | 3      | -       | Households with individuals under 18 years.....      | 1,025  | 33.3    |
| Japanese.....                                   | 2      | -       | Households with individuals 65 years and over ..     | 701    | 22.7    |
| Korean.....                                     | 6      | 0.1     | Average household size.....                          | 2.53   | (X)     |
| Vietnamese.....                                 | 3      | -       | Average family size.....                             | 3.10   | (X)     |
| Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....                  | 5      | 0.1     | HOUSING OCCUPANCY                                    |        |         |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander..... | 7      | 0.1     | Total housing units.....                             | 4,156  | 100.0   |
| Native Hawaiian.....                            | 1      | -       | Occupied housing units.....                          | 3,082  | 74.2    |
| Guamanian or Chamorro.....                      | -      | -       | Vacant housing units.....                            | 1,074  | 25.8    |
| Samoa.....                                      | 3      | -       | For seasonal, recreational, or                       |        |         |
| Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....       | 3      | -       | occasional use.....                                  | 700    | 16.8    |
| Some other race.....                            | 20     | 0.3     | Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....                | 0.8    | (X)     |
| Two or more races.....                          | 82     | 1.0     | Rental vacancy rate (percent).....                   | 24.2   | (X)     |
| Race alone or in combination with one           |        |         | HOUSING TENURE                                       |        |         |
| or more other races: <sup>3</sup>               |        |         | Occupied housing units.....                          | 3,082  | 100.0   |
| White.....                                      | 7,713  | 98.5    | Owner-occupied housing units.....                    | 2,113  | 68.6    |
| Black or African American.....                  | 54     | 0.7     | Renter-occupied housing units.....                   | 969    | 31.4    |
| American Indian and Alaska Native.....          | 64     | 0.8     | Average household size of owner-occupied units.....  | 2.71   | (X)     |
| Asian.....                                      | 46     | 0.6     | Average household size of renter-occupied units..... | 2.12   | (X)     |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander..... | 9      | 0.1     |  |        |         |
| Some other race.....                            | 25     | 0.3     |  |        |         |

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 80

Conventional Federal: 0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 3

Federal (Section 8): 56



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# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The development of transportation resources in the Merrimack River Valley, where Salisbury is situated, was shaped by the history of the region as a major site of American industrial development in the nineteenth century. The area has exceptionally good highway and rail facilities linking the major cities and towns to each other and to the port, airport, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 1, State Routes 1A and 110, and Interstate Routes 95 and 495, the outer belt around Boston.

### Rail

There is no freight or passenger rail service in Salisbury, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts is easily accessible.

### Bus

Salisbury is not affiliated with any regional transit authority.

### Other

The Newburyport-Plum Island Airport, a privately owned public-use facility, is easily accessible from Salisbury. It has a 2,520'x 50' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

Greenleaf House Nursing Home

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.